

October 1, 2018

United States Forest Service
Bridger-Teton National Forest
Patricia O'Connor, Forest Supervisor
Mary Moore, District Ranger
PO Box 1888
Jackson, WY 83001

RE: Town of Jackson Scoping Comments - Snow King Mountain Resort
On-Mountain Improvements Project Proposal

Dear Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Moore,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for extending the scoping period comment deadline.

As the Forest Service begins its analysis of Snow King's proposed on-mountain improvements, we ask that you consider the Jackson-Teton County Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2012 to balance development with environmental stewardship and community character. The vision statement is: "Preserve and protect the area's ecosystem in order to ensure a healthy environment, community and economy for current and future generations."

Regarding the proposed action, the Town of Jackson asks that the environmental analysis address impacts of each proposed element on wildlife and habitat and provide alternatives, particularly for the boundary expansions and facilities proposed on the summit. The Town's Comprehensive Plan is centered on providing balance between the three common values of Ecosystem Stewardship, Growth Management and Quality of Life. Specifically, our Comprehensive Plan lays out the following goals for Ecosystem Stewardship: maintain healthy populations of all native species, preserve and enhance water and air quality, maintain the scenic resources of the community, and protect and steward open space. Related to Growth Management and Quality of Life, the analysis of each element of the proposal should also address additional needs for parking and employee housing, as these will have impacts on the Town. The Town recommends that you provide a variety of alternatives that attempt to balance these Common Values as your review process moves forward.

Of further concern are the proposed access road across the north face of the mountain and the proposed gondola and zip line along the Exhibition run from the summit to base. Construction of the access road raises concerns about potential rock slides, landslides and avalanches, as well as visual impacts to the community. The proposed zip line may further erode community character, create parking challenges, impact Phil Baux Park and create noise impacts for neighbors. Furthermore, the town may not approve a landing site on town land at the base. For these proposed features, the Forest Service should include a range of alternatives, including using the existing access road on the south side of the mountain, a no-action alternative and other possible alignments. Also, the range of alternatives for development should include a net-zero increase of current resort boundary acreage. In addition, the Town asks the

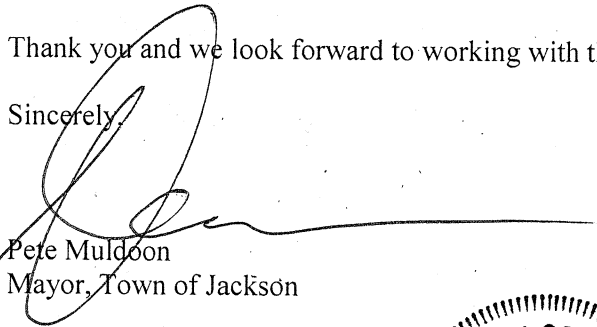
Forest to consider possible impacts and different alternatives for the proposed additional lighting for night skiing as this may impact the Town's dark sky goals and impact surrounding neighbors.

Additionally, the Town-commissioned Snow King Stakeholder's group identified the following list of interests that we think should be considered and balanced during the review of alternatives:

- Conservation of wildlife habitat and wildlands
- Economic viability of Snow King Mountain recreation and resort area
- Diversity of year-round recreational opportunities for diverse user groups
- Community accessibility and affordability
- Preservation of the cultural, environmental, and historical character of Jackson
- Prioritization of community safety
- Availability of high-quality facilities
- Minimized impacts to the surrounding areas.
- Consideration of impacts to infrastructure and services, both positive and negative
- Balanced impacts of development and tourism on the community, both positive and negative, that can serve as a model for others
- Consideration of community-wide educational opportunities
- Consideration for holding events
- Broadened appeal of the offerings and amenities at Snow King Mountain
- Clear and concise guiding documents to clarify rights, responsibilities, and accountability for all parties involved in the future of Snow King Mountain
- Maintained and enhanced world-class training and facilities
- Prioritization of environmental sustainability

Thank you and we look forward to working with the Forest Service on the next steps in the process.

Sincerely,


Pete Muldoon
Mayor, Town of Jackson

Attest: 
Sandra P. Birdyshaw, Town Clerk





P.O. Box 1687
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

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